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OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
OF THE
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
GENERAL PLAN

December 15, 1993

County of Sacramento
Planning and Community Development Department
General and Advance Planning Section

* revised 8/16/95
* refer to Resolution 95-0979

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**SACRAMENTO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN
OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN
OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

SECTION I

OPEN SPACE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL PLAN

The Open Space Element is in many ways a plan for implementing other Elements of the General Plan. For example, maintaining intact habitat, productive soils, and mineral resource availability as open space is essential to resource conservation. Keeping floodplains undeveloped is likewise an important way to implement flood protection goals in the Safety Element. And, preserving open space areas within the fabric of urban development can address Land Use Element policies relating to neighborhood identity and land use conflicts. Indeed, the key role that open space plays in synthesizing land use objectives lends it the distinction as the only Element where an action plan is specifically required by state law.

TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

The breadth of open space is reflected in its definition, here adapted from the California Government Code:

Open space land is any land or water area which is essentially unimproved and devoted to:

- (1) Preservation of natural resources including, areas for the preservation of plant and animal life; areas for scientific study; rivers, streams, bays, and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, and watershed lands.
- (2) The managed production of resources, including forest lands, rangeland, and agricultural lands; areas for recharge of ground-water basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers, and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits.
- (3) Outdoor recreation, including areas of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.
- (4) Public health and safety, including areas which require special management or regulation because of earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, high fire risks, floodplains, aircraft safety, high noise levels, and other hazards; and areas for the protection of watershed integrity, water quality, and air quality.

In addition, open space can function to delineate, separate, or buffer developed land uses, to provide a greenbelt at the edge of an urbanized area and to ensure that land will be available for future specified urban uses.

As used in this plan, open space does not include private yard areas, landscaped or natural areas providing normal separation between buildings within a development, and developed agricultural parcels five acres or less in size.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ELEMENTS

The Open Space Element is coordinated with several of the other Elements in this Plan. The following chart illustrates the relationship between the legal definitions of open space, various elements, and specific land use designations and policy groups. Many of the policies in other elements support and enhance the open space strategy described herein, and together they meet State General Plan mandates. Several key open space related policies are listed in the Agricultural Element.

OPEN SPACE AND THE LAND USE DIAGRAM

The General Plan land use diagram identifies much of the County as open space. Major open space areas include the Delta's islands, waterways, and wetlands (including the Stone Lakes complex); the extensive Cosumnes River floodplain; oak woodlands and grasslands extending from Highway 50 south to San Joaquin in the East County; and the gentle swales of the East Vineyard and Douglas-Sunrise areas containing innumerable vernal pools. Within the urban area, the American River Parkway stands apart as the dominant open space feature. Other notable planned open spaces in the urban area include Del Paso, Hansen, and Land Parks in the city, Dry Creek in Rio Linda and the buffer lands around the Regional Sewage Treatment Plant.

These open space areas are identified on the land use map by the Recreation and Urban Study Area land use designations, which are described in the Land Use Element. The Surface Mining combining land use category protects known aggregate resources as open space until the area is mined. However, it may ultimately be reclaimed for residential, industrial or other non-open space uses as well as recreation and natural habitat. The Urban Study Area designation provides temporary open space pending completion of urban land use and infrastructure plans.

The Urban Stream Corridor is an additional designation shown on the Open Space Strategy Map, rather than the Land Use Diagram, for greater clarity. The Urban Stream Corridor designation is linear in configuration and applies to urban streams and creeks in urbanizing areas. Land within the natural floodplain of these creeks will generally be maintained as open space, although along some stream reaches it may be incorporated as part of private yards. Policies specific to the Urban Stream Corridor are found in the Conservation Element, Section V.

OPEN SPACE ELEMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Figure 1

<u>LEGAL REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>GENERAL PLAN ELEMENT</u>	<u>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND POLICIES</u>
Open space for managed production of resources	Land Use Element	•Natural Preserve zones
	Conservation Element	•Marsh and riparian areas •Vernal pool protection •Urban stream policies •Rare and endangered species •Tree and woodland protection •Aquifer recharge areas
	Open Space Element	•Habitat acquisition •Urban stream corridors
Open space for managed production of resources	Land Use Element	•Agricultural use catagories •Aggregate resource category
	Conservation Element	•Soil productivity •Water quality •Mineral resources •Woodland management •Material conservation •Mitigation banks
	Agricultural Element	•General agriculture •Agricultural cropland •Williamson Act
	Open Space Element	•Acquisition
Open space for outdoor recreation	Land Use Element	•Recreation category
	Conservation Element	•Historic and cultural resources
Open space for pubic health and safety	Safety Element	•Flood hazard
	Conservation Element	•Urban stream corridors

Substantial open space may also be incorporated into urban land use designations. The industrial extensive category incorporates Aerojet with its open space buffer lands. The public/quasi-public designation includes clear zones of runways, prison buffer lands at Folsom, and unutilized land at McClellan Air Force Base. Small scale parks and open space within residential areas are not delineated on the land use map due to scale limitations.

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SECTION II

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION STRATEGY

NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

The long-term protection of important open space resources must involve more than designating them on the General Plan map and applying consistent zoning. The experiences of cities and counties across the country demonstrate that open space zoning alone cannot withstand the economic and political momentum created by rapid urban growth. A comprehensive open space preservation effort must consequently utilize a broad assortment of programs and technologies tailored to specific circumstances.

A brief description of the major preservation techniques and reference to elements where they are discussed follows:

1. Fee title acquisition used for parks and other public open space areas.
2. Park dedication requirements providing land dedication for urban parks in conjunction with subdivision map approval.
3. Dedication of development rights for floodplain and other open space lands as a condition of granting zoning entitlements (see Conservation Element, Urban Corridor and Streams).
4. CEQA requirements to mitigate prime agricultural land uses with purchase of development rights on nearby agricultural land (see Agricultural Element).
5. Creation of mitigation banks to protect existing vernal pool resources and create new vernal pools, with long-term preservation secured in conjunction with credits sold to developers of projects where vernal pools cannot be protected on-site (see Conservation Element, Vernal Pool Resources).
6. Purchase of development rights with public funds.
8. Fee title or development credits purchased by private open space trusts.
9. Williamson Act contracts limiting development options in exchange for tax benefits (see Agricultural Element).
10. Limits on the extension of urban services and/or city/district spheres of influence (see Land Use Element).

KEY OPEN SPACE CONCEPTS

Two key concepts form the basis of the Open Space Element goals, objectives, and policies: protecting the urban edge and establishing natural area linkages.

Any plan which attempts to accommodate large scale urban development yet maintain substantial rural, actively used, and natural open space must confront the inevitable challenge of defining and maintaining a stable demarkation between the two vastly different and economically disparate land uses. The Urban Service Boundary, as described in the Land Use Element, provides a definition for the urban edge. However, urban service policies and supporting zoning have, of and by themselves, proved inadequate to the task of long-term open space protection at the urban fringe, not only in Sacramento, but in rapidly urbanizing environments throughout the country. This element identifies both key acquisition areas and some implementation programs to secure permanent open space and thus fix the urban service boundary along its entire length.

The second key concept, establishing open space linkages, has both an urban and rural context. Urban open spaces most typically consist of small separate blocks of open space, usually developed parks, which provide essential settings for active recreation as well as casual respite from urban life's vexations. Wetlands, vernal pools, oak groves and other important natural habitats are protected in isolated patches on a case by case basis as development occurs. In the rural setting, where open space lands predominate, natural habitats are all too often fragmented by farms and rural residential areas.

Modern ecological research repeatedly points to the value of natural land corridors in perpetuating complete ecosystems and wildlife habitats. These contiguous linkages between natural community types protect biologically important transition zones where habitats of various lower order wildlife intermix to form more complex support zones for species higher in the food chain. Precisely because they are higher in the food chain, many mammals and birds of prey require considerable supporting territory. When their natural habitat is reduced to isolated patches, capable of supporting only a few breeding pairs, the long term viability of the species is severely threatened. Linked natural habitat corridors facilitate migration of species between breeding populations, thus enlarging the gene pool and helping to ensure genetically diverse and healthy populations of individual species.

Open space linkages in the urban environment are also important because they provide definition and scale to neighborhoods and visual, psychological relief to the pervasiveness of urban sprawl. They also create the opportunity for attractive, safe transportation corridors for non-vehicular travel.

In Sacramento, the American River Parkway is the quintessential example of a significant open space corridor which admirably fulfills the benefits of open space linkages. Unfortunately, the development pattern in much of northeast and south Sacramento has precluded the opportunity to establish other open

space corridors, although the Natural Streams Plan adopted in the 1970's and incorporated in this plan, does try to salvage some degree of natural continuity along north area streams. Some opportunities do remain, however, along Dry Creek in Rio Linda and the Morrison/Laguna Stream group in south Sacramento to preserve riparian open space corridors. They are reflected in the open space preservation strategy and policies of this plan. Additional opportunities exist to create supporting open space linkages in newly developing urban areas to promote neighborhood identity and create a network of paths for bicycle and pedestrian travel. These should more appropriately be detailed in individual community plans.

In rural Sacramento, beyond the Urban Service Boundary, contiguous open spaces already exist, allowing for the preservation of high quality natural areas, many of which provide opportunities for passive recreation within the limits of sustainable natural resource management. Of particular interest is the protection of natural corridors along the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek, Dry Creek adjacent to San Joaquin County, Laguna Creek draining into the Cosumnes, the east county blue oak woodlands, the Stone Lakes/Snodgrass Slough area, and the Alta Mesa corridor. This latter corridor, starting at Highway 99 in the vicinity of Badger Creek and extending east to the foothills, is notable in the diversity of habitat protection potential and linkages it affords. It encompasses the permanent and seasonal marshes of the Badger Creek complex; vernal pools encompassing four separate geologic strata (and hence separate soil associations) and representing much of the floristic diversity found in vernal pools in this part of the Sacramento Valley; blue oak woodlands to the east; and ultimately reaching the Ione chaparral, a rare endemic community, scattered occurrences of which are located just into Amador County.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION STRATEGY DIAGRAM

A map associated with this plan depicts Sacramento County's overall preservation strategy. It identifies existing major public open space lands and general areas for the application of different preservation techniques. The identification of public and private agency programs on the diagram does not imply any commitment by other agencies to implement them. The diagram identifies them in order to gain perspective on appropriate priorities for County-initiated preservation programs.

South Central Sacramento: This area south of the Cosumnes River floodplain between Highway 99 and the Folsom South Canal is perhaps three quarters open space, surrounding the agricultural residential communities of Wilton-Dillard, Alta Mesa, and Herald. A large tract between Dillard Road, Walmort Road, Central Traction Railroad, Valensin Road, and U.S. Highway 50 remains unlevelled grazing land bisected by the wetlands of Badger Creek's two branches. Some vernal pools exist here but they are not extensive. Quality riparian and wetland habitat also exists along Laguna Creek as far east as the Central Traction Railroad.

Continued demand for rural estate lots translates to continued pressure to expand the Herald, Alta Mesa, and Wilton-Dillard agricultural residential communities, leading ultimately to an uninterrupted stretch of rural residential development between the Cosumnes River and San Joaquin County. In addition, the pace of Galt's urban expansion is accelerating and extending east to Marengo Road and north to Twin Cities Road. The City is seeking to expand its urban sphere of influence to include the entire area between the Cosumnes River, the Central California Traction Railroad, Dry Creek, and Highway 99.

Southeast Sacramento: The area east of the Folsom South Canal and south of the Cosumnes River is primarily grazing land with many large landholdings. Clusters of oak woodlands exist along the Amador County line. The floodplains of Laguna Creek and Dry Creek extend east to Amador, within which irrigated farming occurs. The grassland terraces above the floodplain contain many vernal pools.

Southwest Sacramento County: This critical open space area extends east from the Sacramento River and Snodgrass Slough to Highway 99 and Galt and north from Dry Creek/Mokelumne River to the Urban Area. Together with the Cosumnes River corridor east of 99, the Lower Cosumnes River and Stone Lakes Basin comprise the heart of the County's open space preservation strategy: a natural resource buffer between development progressing southward from Laguna and Elk Grove and northwest from Galt. This area has nationally important wildlife habitat. Flooding is frequent and extensive. During major floods, large areas are inundated by a combination of Cosumnes River overflow and the backup of Central Valley runoff unable to drain into the Delta. It is a key Plan policy to retain the floodplain as open space, with prohibitions on leveeing or filling to reduce the floodplain to accommodate development. Urban services are not anticipated to extend beyond the Cosumnes/Deer Creek floodplain.

The Cosumnes River Corridor: This area between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River, extending from Highway 99 to the Jackson Highway, is a key focus of the open space preservation strategy. Here, almost all the values which define open space are evident: major groundwater recharge, frequent flooding, numerous archeological and historical sites, quality riparian habitat, and aggregate resources.

This designated floodway is subject to strong state and local regulations, and without major new upstream water storage facilities or significant channelization, cannot be developed. The Plan recommends protection for the riparian habitat.

The Delta: The long-term stability and viability of the Delta's levees is a major statewide concern. Large-scale urban development is not a threat; however, additional development within an expanded Isleton sphere of influence and additional private recreational developments could impact open space. The strategy diagram reflects the state's plan to acquire Sherman Island as a special management area.

Vineyard/Mather: This area planned for major urban growth comprises land north of Grant Line Road between Elk Grove-Florin and Sunrise Boulevard. The principal natural features of open space significance include the floodplains of Laguna, Morrison and Elder Creeks, a concentration of vernal pools in the vicinity of the Multi-cultural Park site, and Mather Lake on the Air Force Base. Additional vernal pools are located throughout this area but they are generally not in large enough groupings to merit designation for permanent protection.

The principal preservation strategy for the creek floodplains involves policies and regulations prohibiting fill within a minimum 600-foot wide corridor of the floodplain. Key to implementing this strategy is the funding and preparation of comprehensive floodplain management plans for these creeks. Open space within the floodplain would be preserved at the time of development approval. Ultimately, some acquisition of floodplain areas may be necessary to complete plan implementation, particularly where the creeks pass through existing Agricultural-Residential areas. However, funding of such purchases is not a priority.

The Vineyard area includes some major transmission corridors through the community, including a 200- to 500-foot wide corridor paralleling Waterman Road between Grant Line and Elder Creek Road. The Plan includes policies to protect these corridors as open space integrated into the development plans for surrounding land.

East Sacramento: This area is bounded by Sunrise Boulevard on the west, Highway 50 on the north, El Dorado County on the east, and Jackson Highway/Cosummes River on the south. Open space values include a significant concentration of vernal pools amidst the gentle swales of the Douglas-Sunrise area, where several populations of special status vernal pool plants have been noted. This gives way east of Grant Line to rolling grassland and blue oak woodlands grazed by cattle on large landholdings. Some of the County's most scenic open space occurs along the Cosummes River through Rancho Murieta and east to the County line. Lack of services, specifically lack of water, limit development potential in the foothill areas.

Natomas: This area includes the unincorporated land in the northeast portion of the County west of the Natomas East Main Drain. The endangered giant garter snake populates the ditches and canals. The river side of the Garden Highway retains much of its riparian vegetation, despite numerous homes, wherein nest some two dozen pairs of threatened Swainson hawks, which forage in the surrounding fields. Fisherman's Lake, just north of I-80 at the City Limit, is the most important wetlands area in the Natomas area. Portions of the Natomas area are impacted by noise from Metro Airport.

Many parcels along the Garden Highway riverfront are already under County Airports Department ownership. Additional parcels will be purchased only if noise studies determine that acquisition is warranted. A comprehensive review of Garden Highway's riverfront lands north of I-80 should be undertaken to assess status under current zoning, ownership, riparian values, rare and

endangered species, and aircraft noise levels and make appropriate zoning and/or acquisition recommendations.

American River Parkway: The American River Parkway is the cornerstone of the County's urban open space system. Most of the parkway is in public ownership and issues focus on management and adjoining development. The American River Parkway Plan is adopted as a supplement to the County General Plan.

A few additional acquisitions are necessary to complete the Parkway. These include the Urrutia property within the City (using Proposition 70 funds), an auto wrecking yard site east of Sunrise Boulevard, and a trailer park at 16th Street Bridge and Northgate Boulevard. Acquisition of Bushy Lake, adjacent to Cal Expo and currently owned by the state, is also recommended to assure Parkway land use compliance.

North Area: The Open Space Preservation Strategy Diagram shows few changes to open space designations in the northeast urban portion of the County. The primary open space designation is recreation pertaining to existing parks. In the north portion of the County, the Diagram shows a parkway along Dry Creek. The purpose of the proposed parkway is to preserve open space and habitat, provide greater recreational opportunities in the north County, and offer a higher level of flood control.

South Sacramento Urban Area: The only significant open space preservation effort in the urbanized south area involves implementation of policies to provide an open space floodplain corridor along Laguna Creek (see discussion for Vineyard (Mather)).

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SECTION III

OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

GOAL: Open space lands in Sacramento permanently protected through coordinated use of regulation, acquisition, density transfer and incentive programs.

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL POLICIES

This section provides policy and program guidance for implementing various open space preservation techniques identified in the previous section. Additional policies pertaining to open space preservation are included in the Land Use and Conservation Elements. (See Section II for specifics.)

The following two general policies provide overall guidance to the County's open space protection efforts.

Policies:

- OS-1. Permanently protect, as open space, areas of natural resource value, including wetlands preserves, riparian corridors, woodlands, and floodplains.
- OS-2. Maintain open space and natural areas that are interconnected and of sufficient size to protect biodiversity, accommodate wildlife movement and sustain ecosystems.

ACQUISITION

Objective: Flexible, effective open space acquisition strategy.

Intent: Flexibility in acquisition policy is essential to an effective open space preservation strategy. Accordingly, the action plan does not specify acquisition prerequisites or priorities, other than establishing basic consistency with the Open Space Element. Encouraging or developing willing sellers, whenever possible, is important to establishing landowner acceptance of the overall open space preservation program.

Policies:

- OS-3. Lands acquired in easement or fee title for open space preservation shall be consistent with the Open Space policies of this General Plan.
- OS-4. Fee title and easement acquisitions within urban stream corridors shall be consistent with any adopted Master Drainage Plans of the Department of Public Works.

- OS-5. Acquisition of fee title or less than fee interest in land for open space purposes shall place emphasis, when possible, on the willingness of the property owner to sell the land.
- OS-6. Costs of acquiring public open space shall be equitably distributed between existing and new residents.
- OS-7. The County shall adopt a comprehensive Open Space Preservation Action Plan which includes:
- ° An inventory of open space resources.
 - ° Refinement of targeted areas for preservation identified in this Element, with cost estimates for acquisition.
 - ° An administrative structure which provides for governance by the Board of Supervisors.
 - ° Guarantees as to the permanent preservation of open space lands acquired in fee or less than fee.
 - ° Funding for acquisition.
- OS-8. Open space easements obtained and offered as mitigation shall be dedicated to the County of Sacramento or an open space agency designated by the County to protect and manage the open space. Fee title of land may be dedicated to the County or the open space agency provided it is acceptable to the appropriate department or agency.
- OS-9. Sacramento County shall seek to attain the County Regional Park System standard of 20 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 population.

Implementation Measures:

- A. Coordinate with Public Works to identify sites and mechanisms to protect open space in urban stream corridors consistent with Master Drainage Plans. (PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS)
- B. Determine funding source, which may include publicly voted bonds, for publicly acquired conservation easements geared to protecting farmland. (PLANNING, PARKS, AFA)
- C. Develop mitigation requirements and standards for open space, including appropriate mitigation ratios, and identify the geographic areas where mitigation is appropriate. (PLANNING)
- D. Conduct a study to develop an Open Space Preservation Action program which includes the requirements outlined in OS-7. (PLANNING)

E. Support development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for Sacramento County.

CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT

Objective: Appropriate urban and rural development clustered to provide open space resource protection.

The design concept of cluster development is authorized in the County Zoning Code through the issuance of a special development permit to, among other things, "encourage more efficient allocation and maintenance of privately controlled open space through the redistribution of overall density. . . ." The Code further permits a density increase up to 50 percent of permitted density where environmentally sensitive or significant features exist on the proposed site that are worthy of preservation.

Cluster development can also provide enhanced open space value in the context of rural development, where Agricultural-Residential parcels may be concentrated in one portion of the property in order to protect natural resources or provide an open space buffer between rural residences and intensively farmed areas.

In order that cluster development techniques be better tailored to provide open space resource protection, it is desirable to more specifically identify the circumstances where it is appropriate. Just as importantly, it is necessary to recognize that limitations on the use of density bonuses are necessary.

Policies:

OS-10. Permit development clustering in urban areas where grouping of units at a higher density would facilitate on-site protection of woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes, urban stream corridors, scenic areas, or other appropriate natural features as open space, provided that:

- a. Urban infrastructure capacity is available for urban use.
- b. On-site resource protection is appropriate and consistent with other General Plan Policies.
- c. General Plan policies pertaining to floodplain fill or natural preserves would not preclude development of the proposed use in the area to be protected as open space.
- d. The architecture and scale of development is appropriate for the area.
- e. Development rights for the open space area are permanently dedicated and appropriate long-term management is provided for by either a public agency, private homeowners association, or other appropriate entity.

OS-11. Permit development clustering in rural areas where grouping units at a higher density would create an open space buffer protecting intensive farming activities, provided that:

- a. Clustered residential lots are adjacent to and comparable in lot size to existing agricultural areas.
- b. Septic disposal systems are not concentrated in a manner which increases the potential for groundwater contamination.
- c. General Plan policies pertaining to floodplain or natural preserves would not preclude development of the proposed use in the area to be protected as open space.
- d. The project complies with any applicable development credits transfer ordinance relating to density bonuses.
- e. Development rights for the open space area are permanently dedicated and appropriate long-term management is provided for by either a public agency, private homeowners association, or other appropriate entity.
- f. The overall average density of the project is comparable to the average lot sizes in the area.

OS-12. Consider density bonuses as a method of encouraging development clustering and open space preservation.

Implementation Measures:

- A. Amend the zoning code pertaining to special development permits to incorporate clustering policies. (Planning)

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SECTION IV

OPEN SPACE RESOURCES
BACKGROUND REPORT

Sacramento County open space resources are comprised of natural areas and lands set aside primarily for human use. Natural area open spaces are riparian habitat, seasonal and permanent marshes, vernal pool concentrations, oak woodlands, flood zones, and the open waters of the rivers and Delta. Open spaces used primarily for human use are agricultural lands, recreation oriented parklands, existing and proposed buffer lands, aquifer recharge areas, and areas zoned for mineral and aggregate extraction. There is overlap and combining of natural and human use attributes on many of the open space areas. For instance, the best aquifer recharge areas are often prime agriculture lands, and oak woodlands are found scattered amongst grazing areas.

County open space area maps are used for illustrative purposes in the General Plan document. [Note that scale limitations require the generalization of these diagrams. Therefore, the complete extent of the planning factors depicted may not be fully represented, and in some cases may be overstated.] Maps were compiled using various sources including cartographic, photographic, natural resource, and land use databases. Sources were county, state, and federal maps, communication with professional resource managers and land use planners, and computerized land database information from academic institutions and public, private, and nonprofit agencies. Maps were compiled by County cartographic staff using a Mackintosh II computer and appropriate software.

The open space related maps represent the various categories of open space found in Sacramento County and delineate areas based on natural attributes or human uses. Listed below are the individual map titles, a brief explanation of the map, compilation procedures and, if applicable, a notation as to where maps are included with associated background reports. Maps follow text.

EXISTING OPEN SPACE MAP

Open Space Map. Map shows existing open space areas, as opposed to urban areas, in Sacramento County. The open space map serves as an illustrative representation of acreage used and maintained in such a way that preserves, either purposefully or inadvertently, open space values. The map was compiled from review of the California Department of Conservation's Important Farmlands Map and the County's map of recreation oriented areas. The state's farmland map has a ten-acre threshold, and thus parcels that size or smaller were not mapped.

OPEN SPACE RESOURCE MAPS

Important Natural Areas Map. Map delineates areas considered primarily natural such as riparian zones, marshlands, and oak woodlands. Boundaries drawn based on review of reports and maps of public and private agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory maps, the State Department of Water Resource's Delta Atlas, the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database, and aerial photography.

Flood Areas Map. Map delineates 100-year floodplain and categorizes flood areas based on flood protection attributes and levee elevations. Cartographic data compiled from 1989 Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The delineation of different types of flooding is approximate and illustrative.

Prime Agricultural Lands Map. Map shows prime, statewide in importance, and unique farmland areas, as defined by the State of California and the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Data compiled from the State of California, Department of Conservation's 1990 working draft of Sacramento County's Important Farmlands Map. Approximate acreage of area: 216,829.

Williamson Contracts Maps. Map shows existing lands under Williamson Act provisions. Information compiled from review of current (1990) County Agriculture Preserve Map.

Recreation Oriented Parklands (in production). Cartographic information delineates existing parkland facilities. Map data obtained from communication with County Parks personnel and from review of County maps.

Existing and Planned Buffer Lands Map. Information regarding airport noise buffer zones, public utility buffer lands, and propellant hazard buffer zone are cartographically displayed on this map. Buffer zones were compiled from communication with and maps supplied by professionals at respective commercial airports and military bases, public utilities, and Aerojet.

Groundwater Recharge Area Map. Maps effective groundwater recharge areas based on permeability characteristics of underlying geologic formations. Cartographic information compiled from geologic interpretation of maps and data published in, Evaluation of Groundwater Resources: Sacramento County, D.L. Dupras, Bulletin No. 118-3, State of California, Department of Water Resources, July 1974.

Mineral Resources Map. Delineates known economically significant mineral and gas deposits, as well as potential aggregate and clay deposits. Cartographic data, except clay and gas deposits, compiled from interpretation and review of maps and text published as, Mineral Land Classification: Portland Cement Grade Aggregate in the Sacramento-Fairfield Production-Consumption Region, Special Report 156, State of California, Division of Mines and Geology, 1985. Clay deposit data within the Ione Formation compiled from review of Aerial Geology Map of Sacramento County, published as Plate 1 in, Evaluation of Groundwater

Resources: Sacramento County, D.L. Dupras, Bulletin No. 118-3, State of California, Department of Water Resources, July 1974. Gas deposits identified through communication with resource professionals with the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas.

Aggregate and Clay Resources Map. Boundaries show significant aggregate and potentially significant clay deposits. Deposits mapped from review of maps and text published in, Evaluation of Groundwater Resources: Sacramento County, D.L. Dupras, Bulletin No. 118-3, State of California, Department of Water Resources, July 1974. Remaining open space with the aggregate resources are mapped from review of American River Parkway Plan map and communication with County planning and surveying staff.

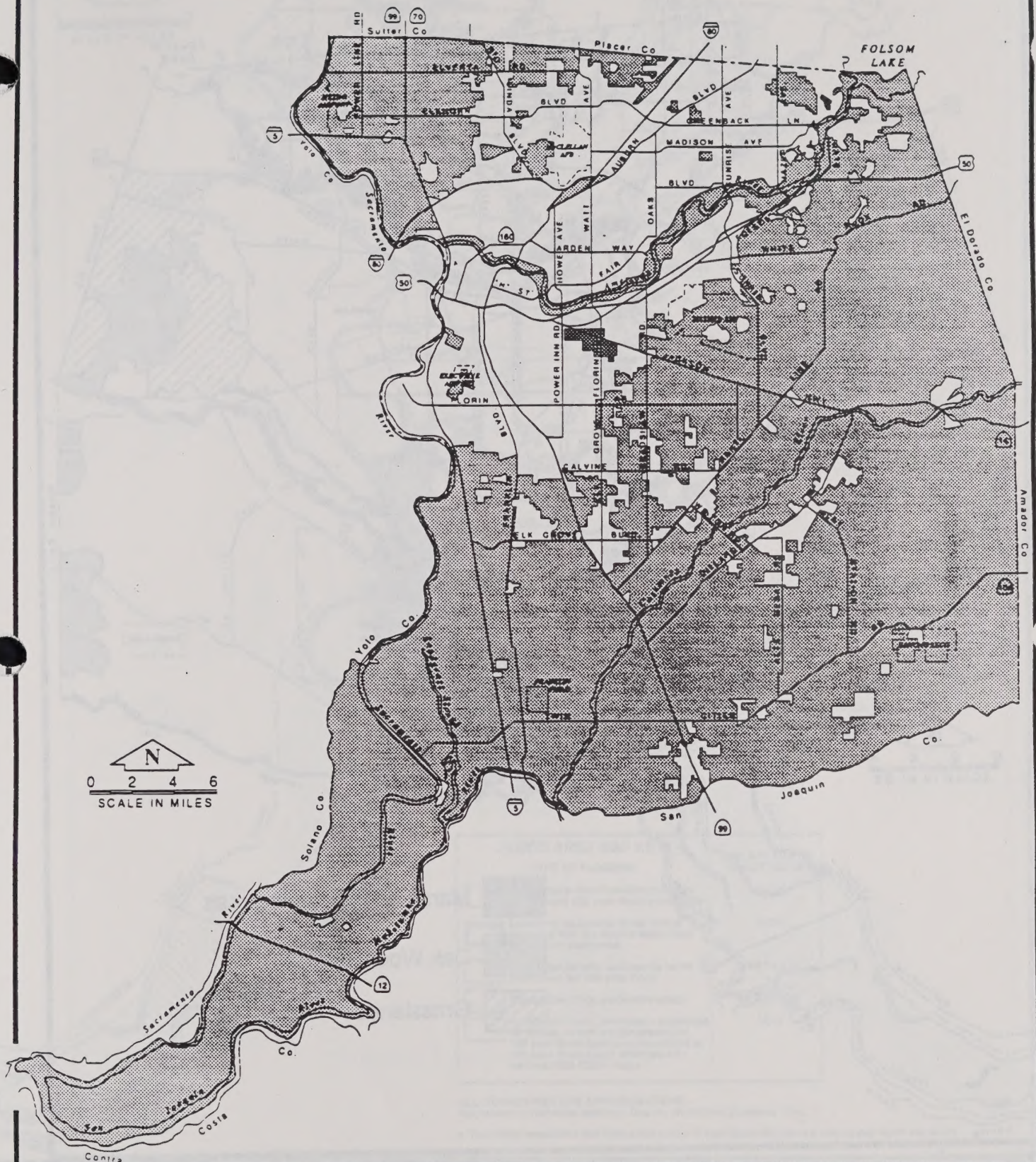
Vernal Pool Concentration Map. Map shows areas containing high concentrations of vernal pools as determined through interpretation of color infrared aerial photography. Much of the County was not included in this analysis. Areas delineated are approximate and reflect only those included in the Jones and Stokes report of June, 1990.

Wildlife Corridors Map. Map shows both riparian and other aquatic corridors, as well as oak woodland and grassland corridors. These were determined in consultation with professional resource ecologists.

COMPOSITE OPEN SPACE RESOURCES MAP

Composite Open Space Resource Map. This map is a schematic representation of all open space areas, both natural and human use, currently existing within the County. The map is a compilation of all open space areas identified in the Conservation and Open Space Elements, most of which are mapped individually for illustrative purposes. Due to scale and complexity of combined uses, boundaries are generalized.

OPEN SPACE



Prepared by the Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department

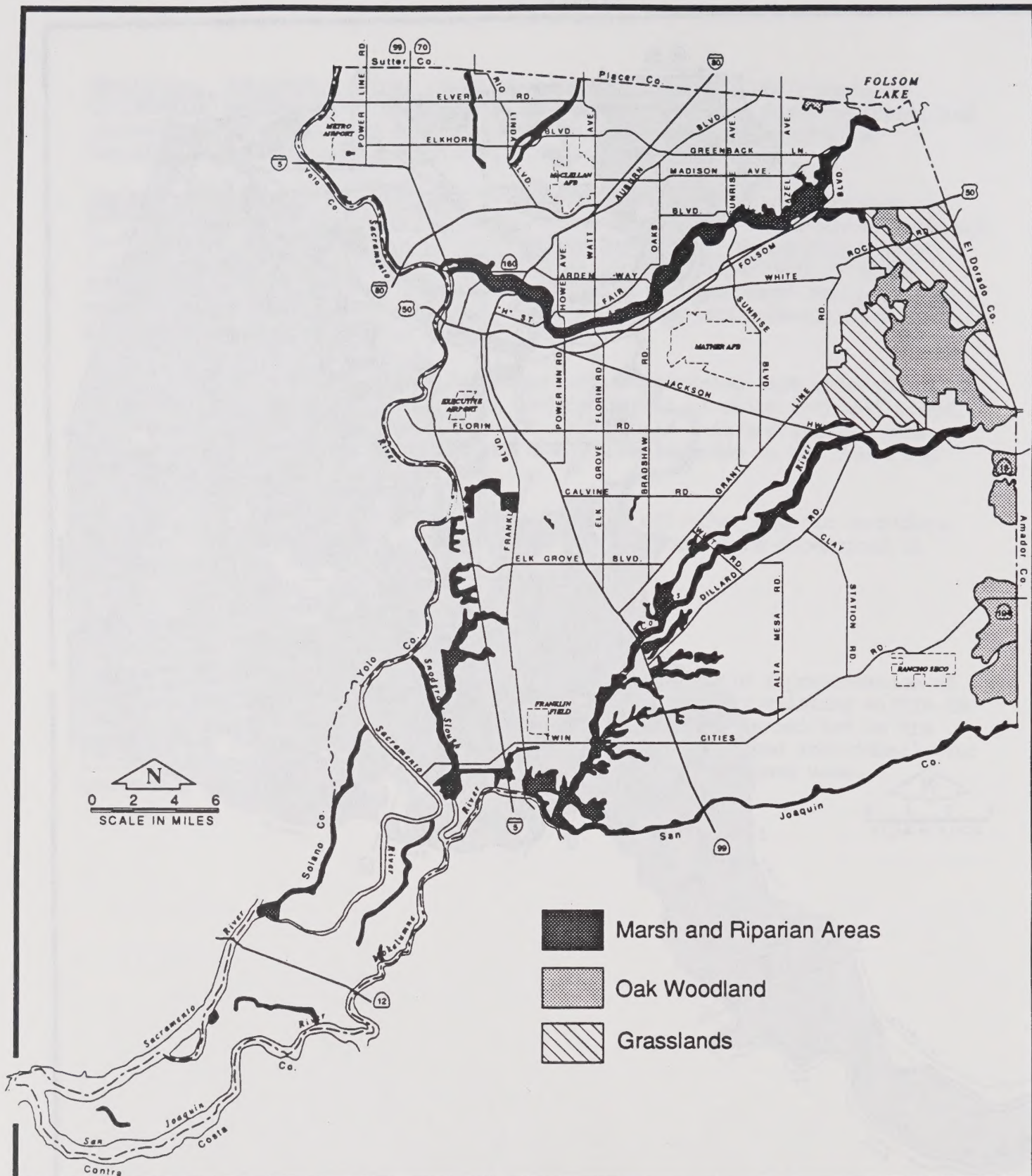
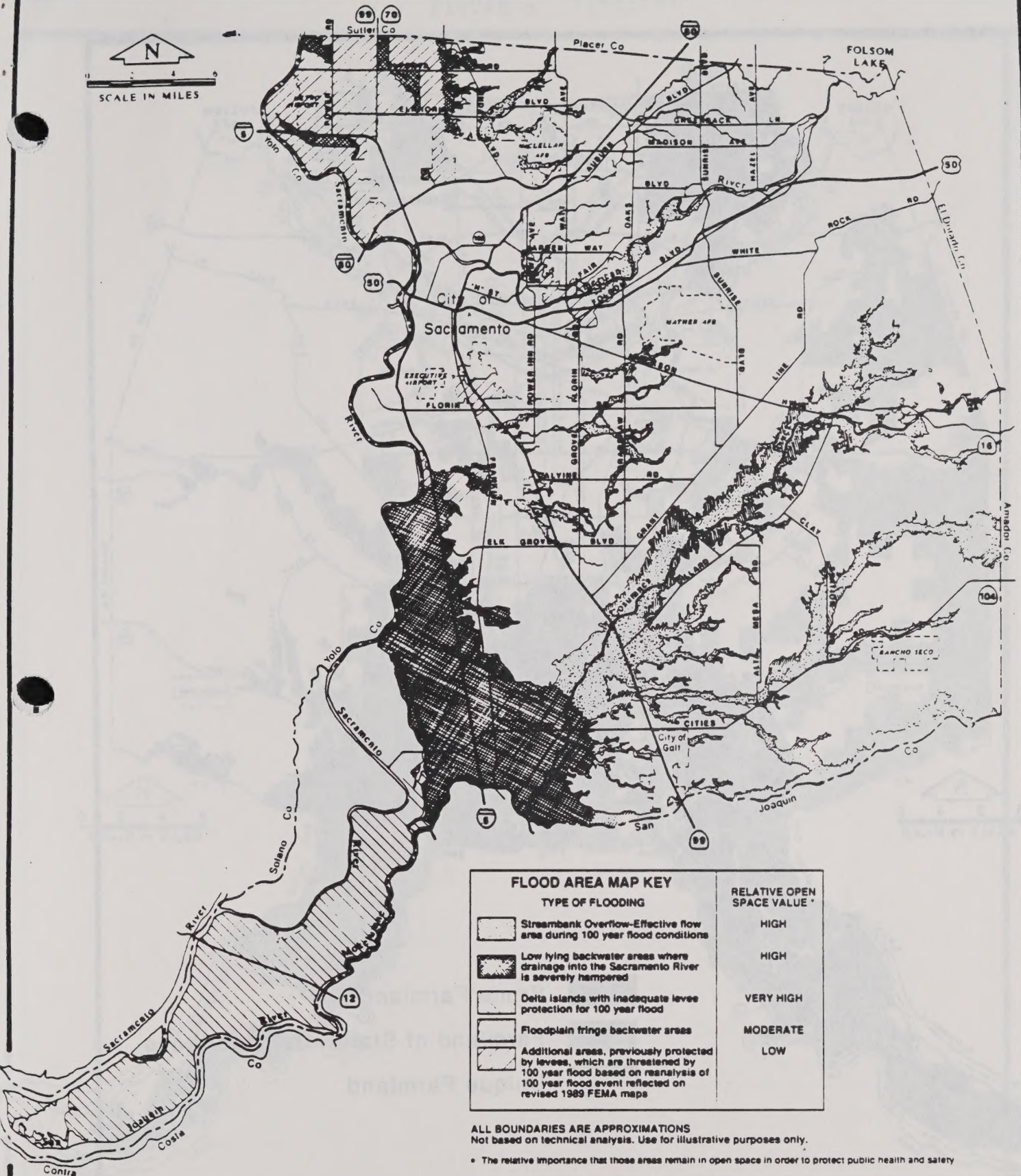


Figure 3
Important Natural Areas

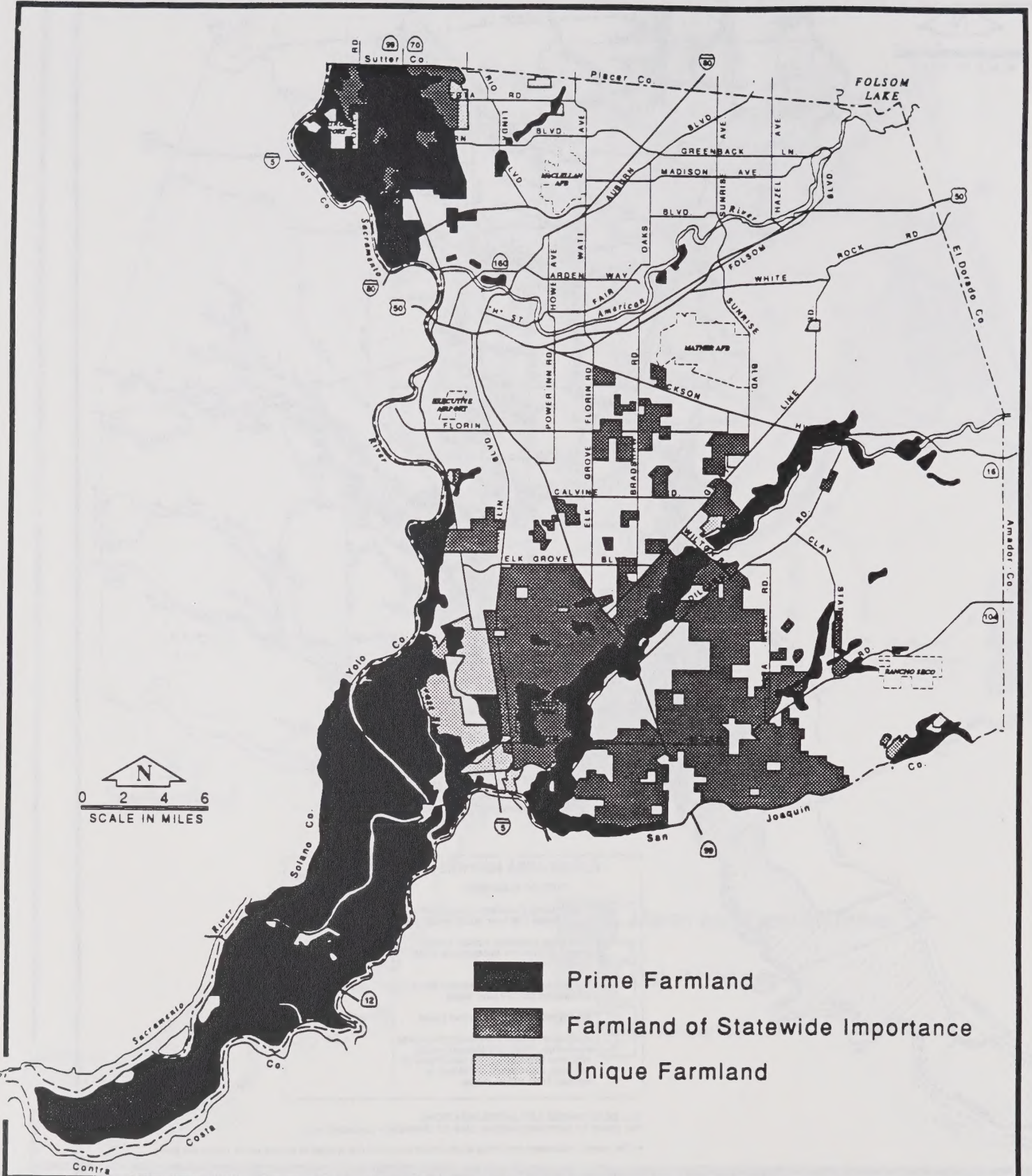
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FLOOD AREAS

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FIGURE 5

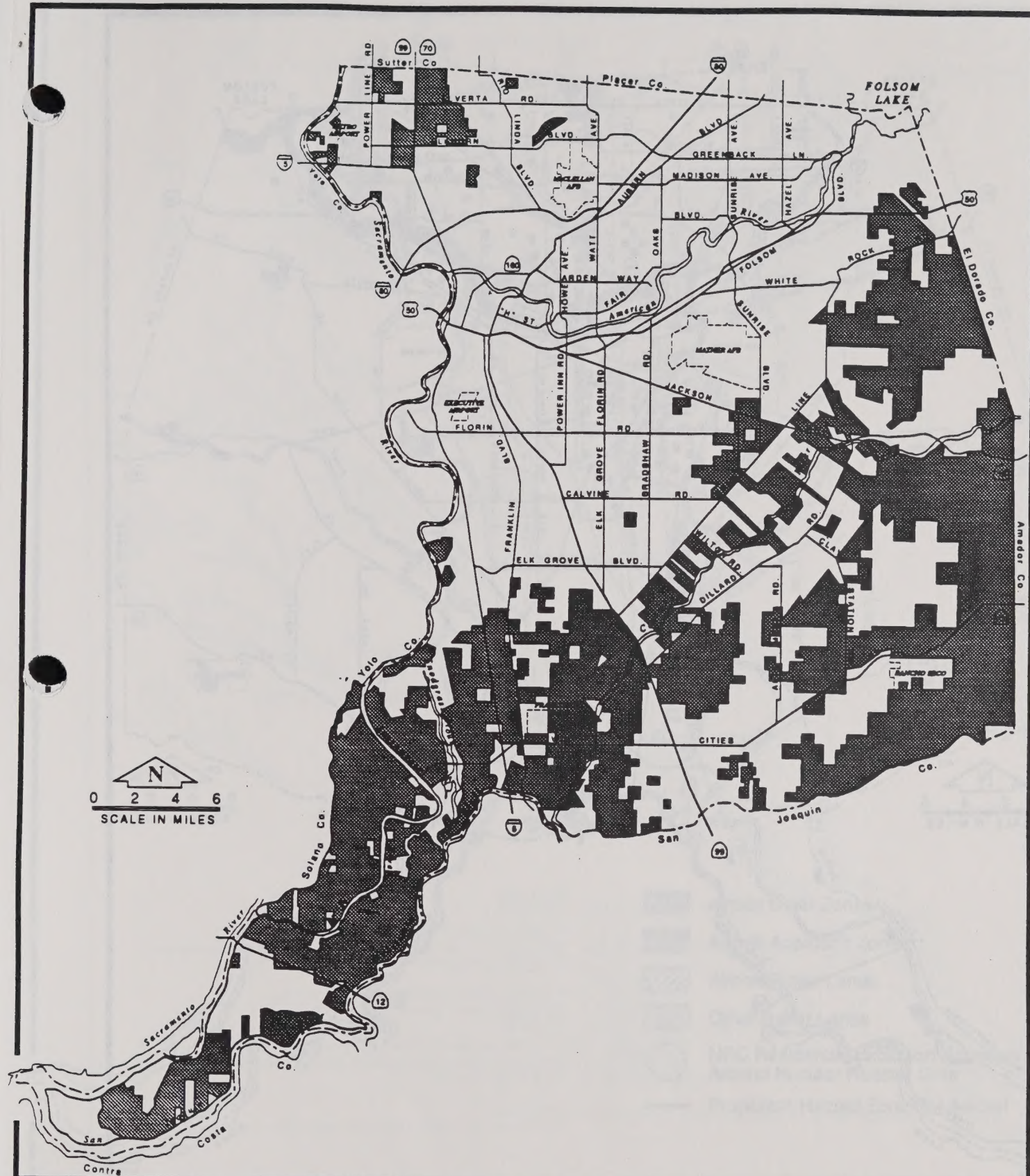


-  Prime Farmland
-  Farmland of Statewide Importance
-  Unique Farmland

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

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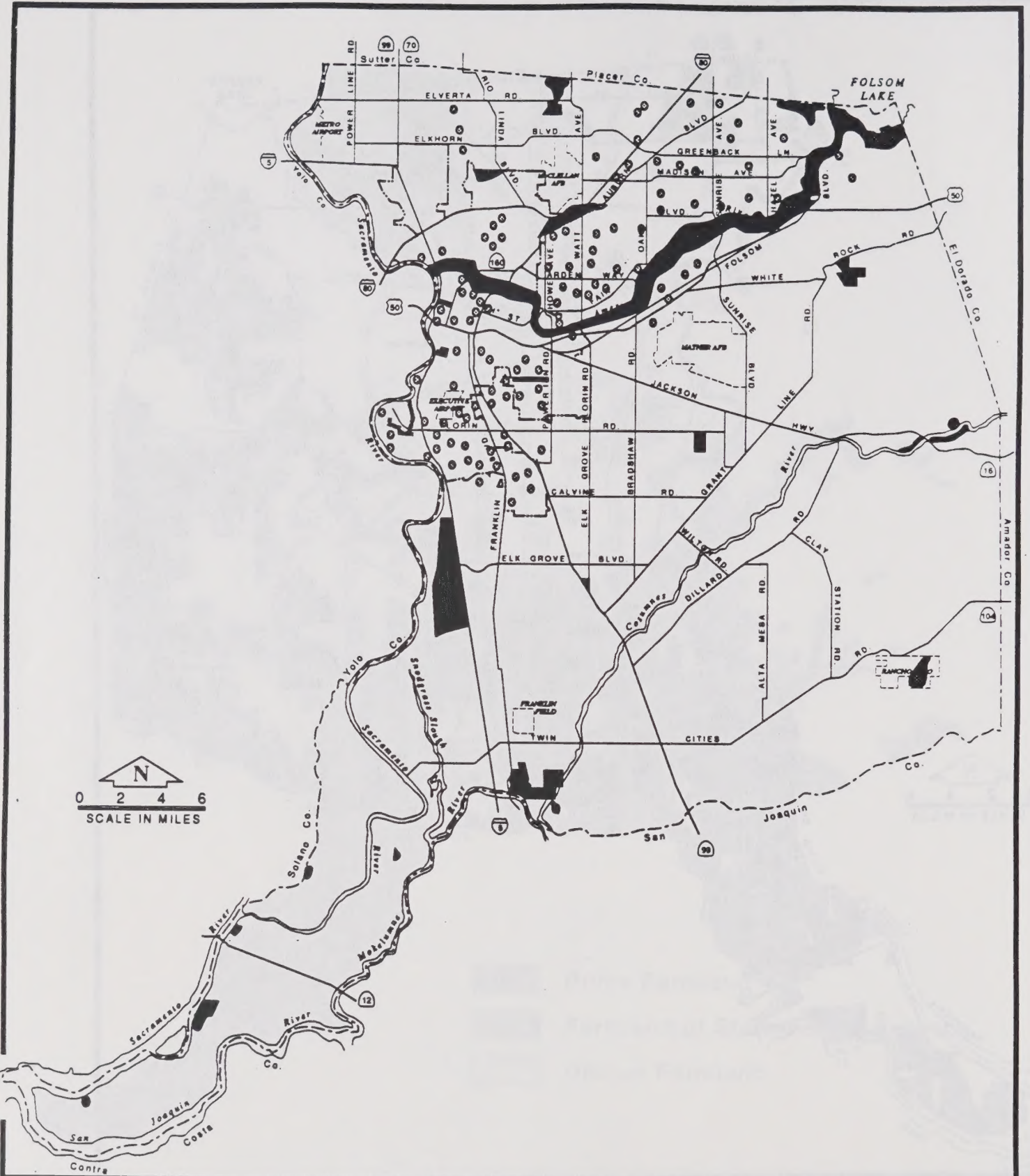
FIGURE 6



WILLIAMSON CONTRACTS

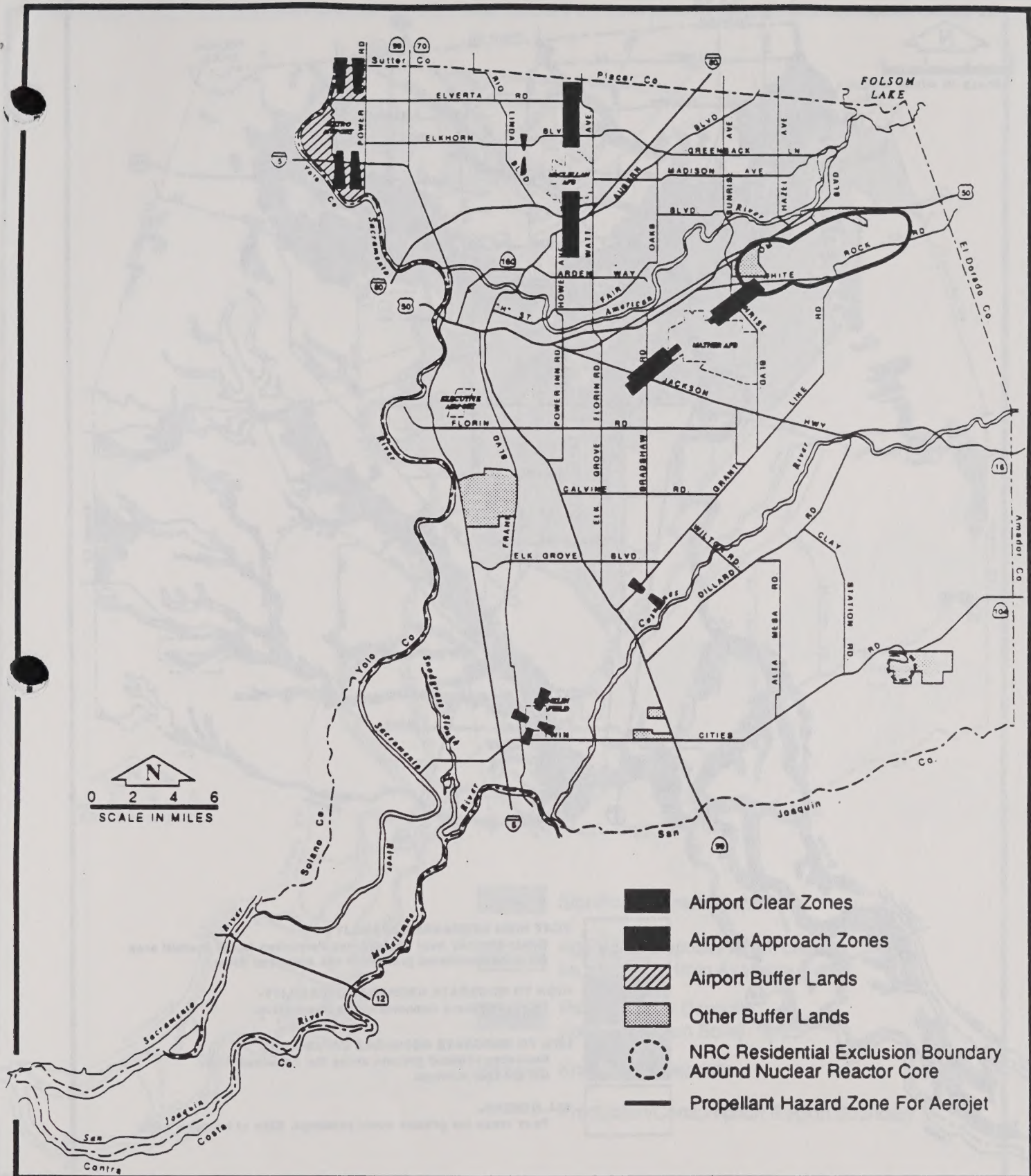
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FIGURE 7



Existing Public Parks & Recreation Sites

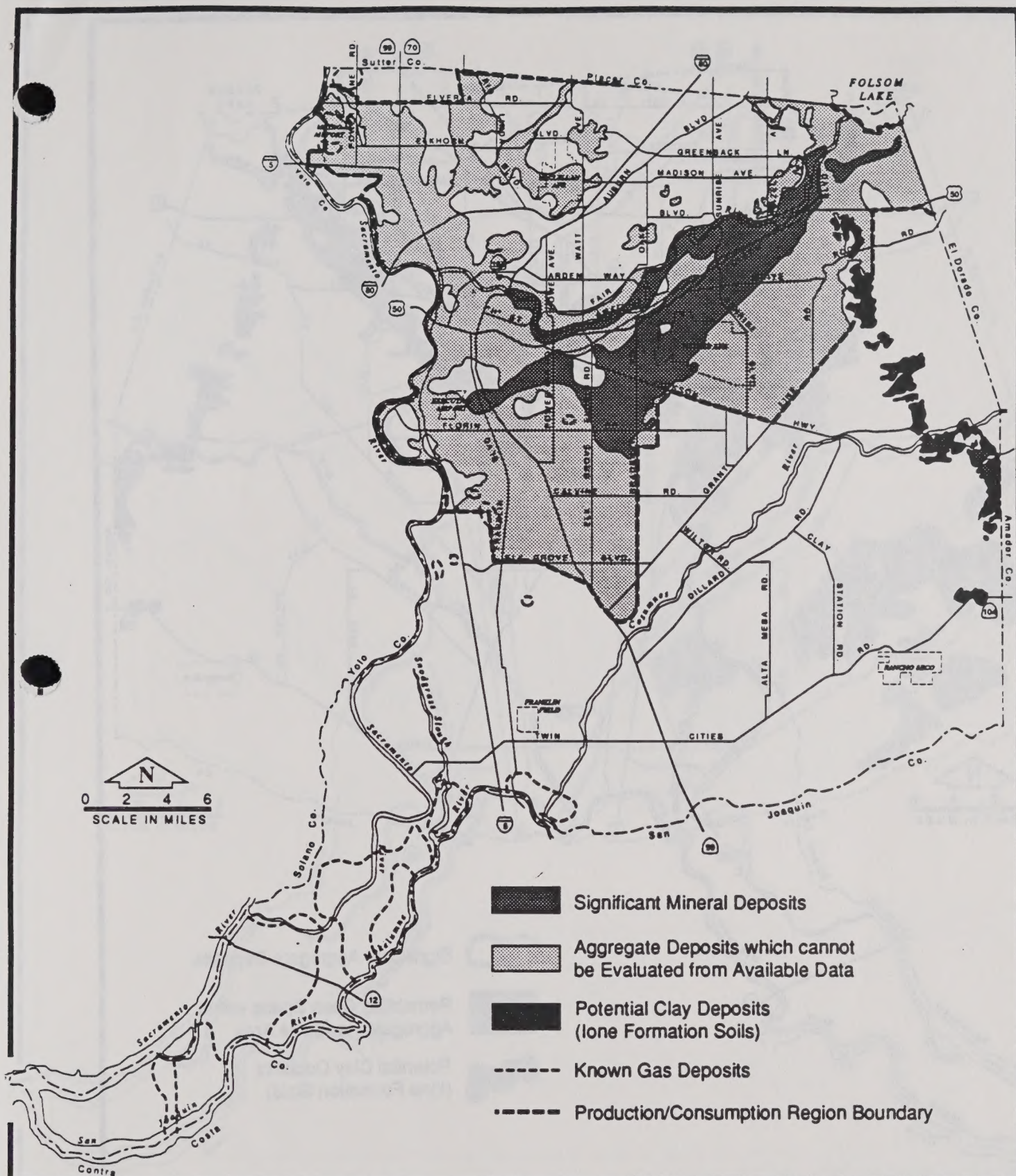
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Existing and Planned Buffer Lands

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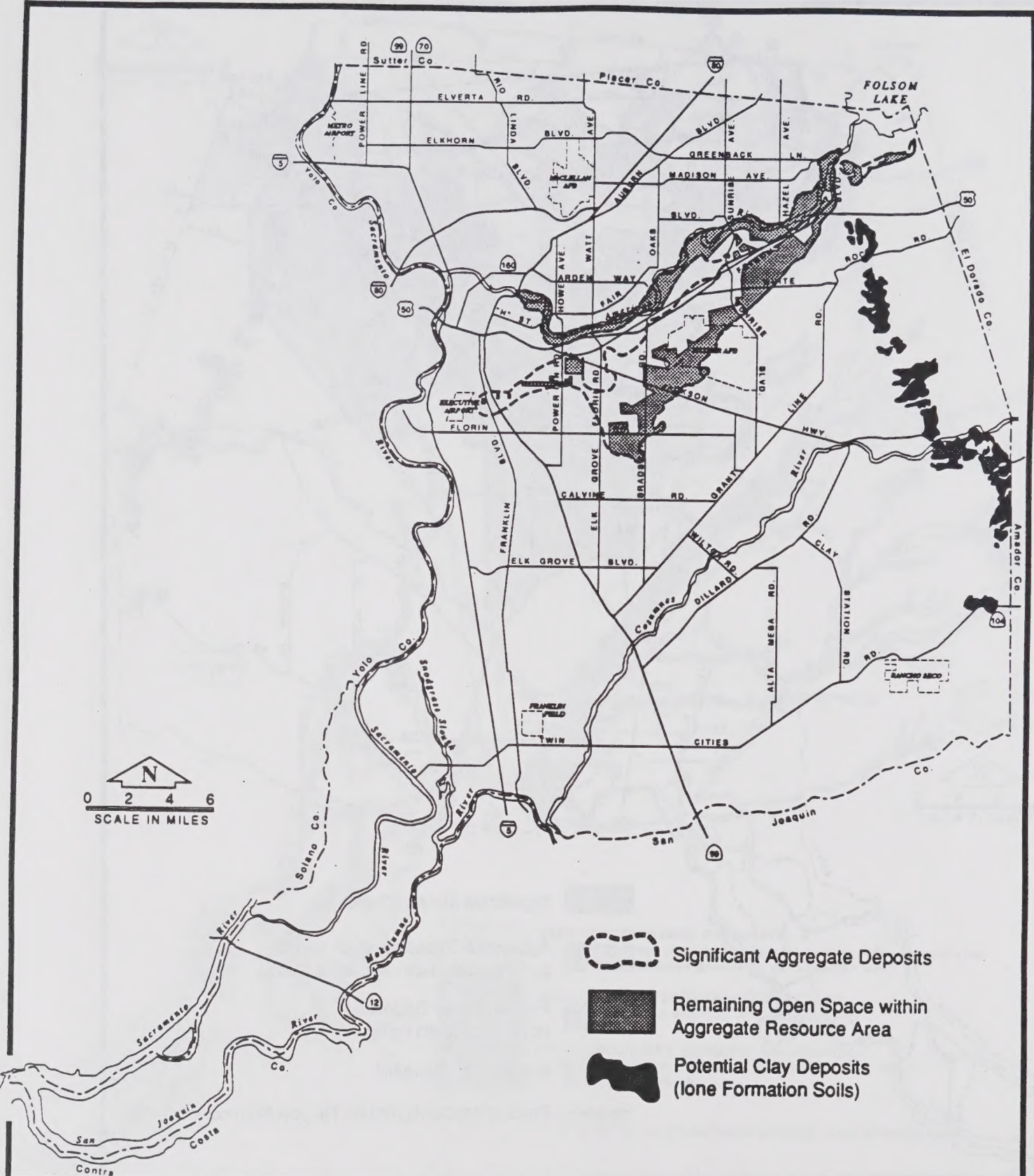
FIGURE 10



MINERAL RESOURCES

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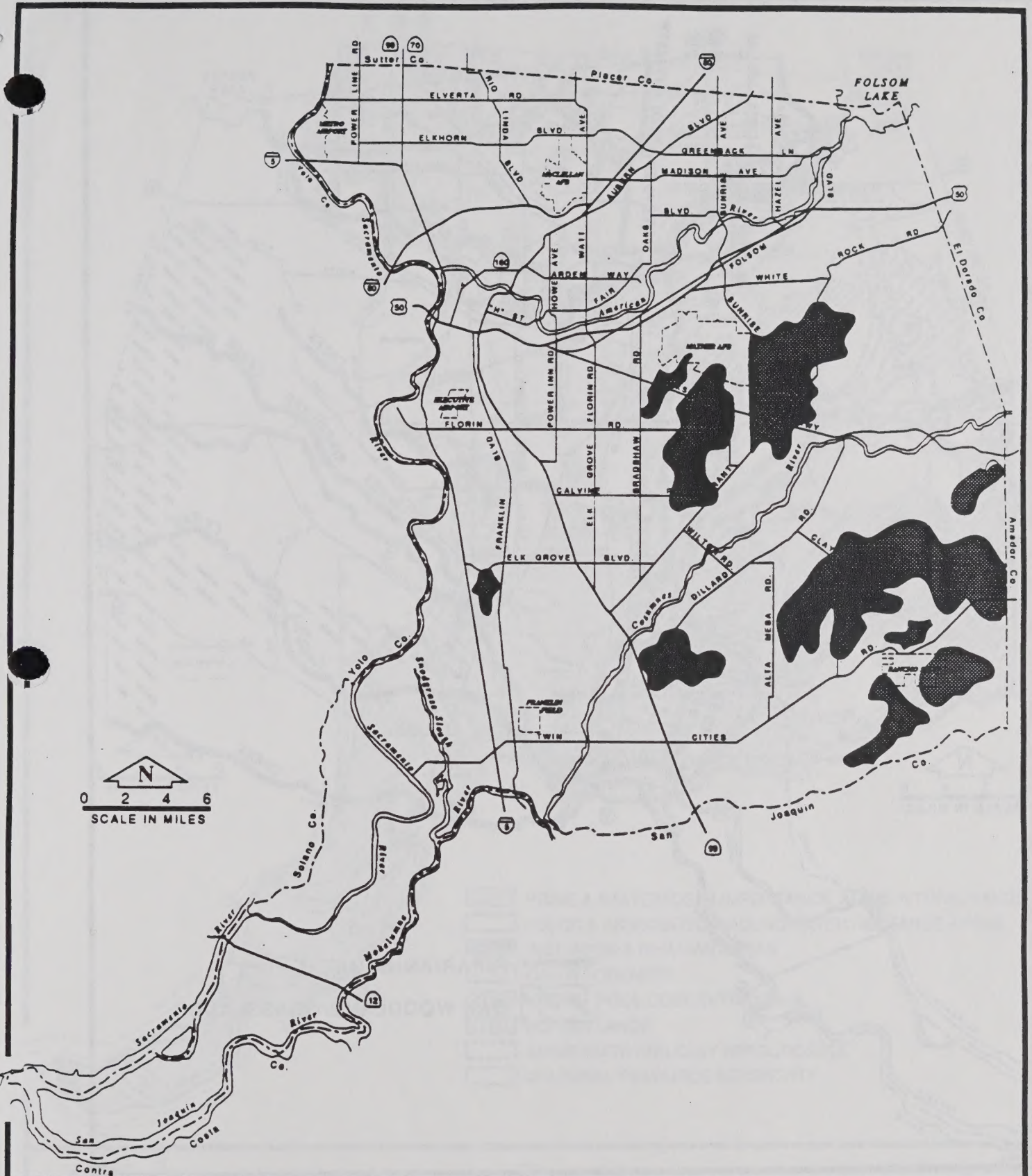
FIGURE 11



AGGREGATE AND CLAY RESOURCES

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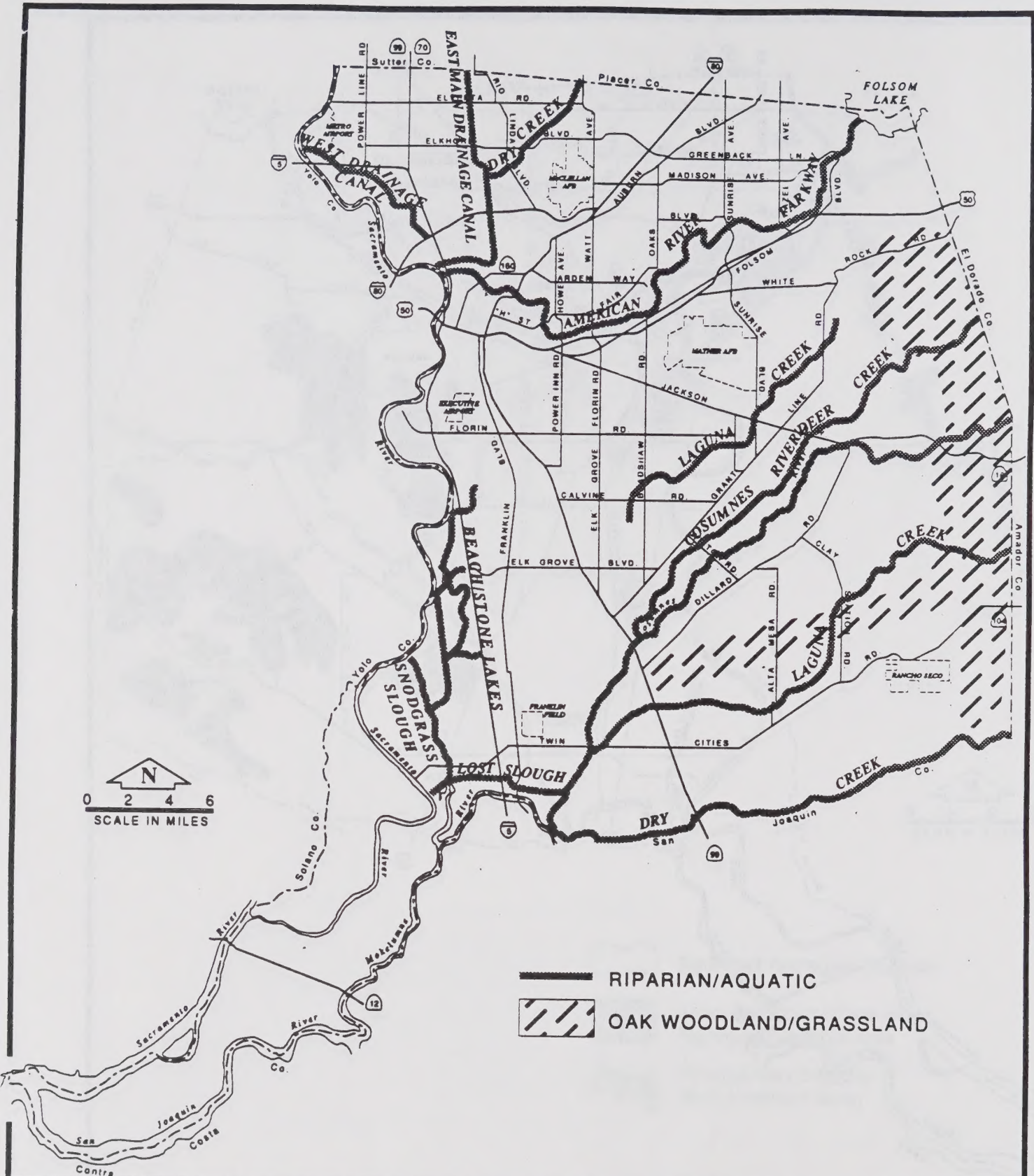
FIGURE 12

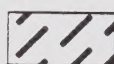


Vernal Pool Concentrations

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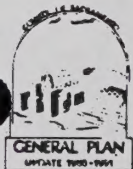
FIGURE 13



 RIPARIAN/AQUATIC
 OAK WOODLAND/GRASSLAND

Wildlife Corridors

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